
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW LEADERSHIP FOR COMMISSION'S OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Chairman Curt L. Hébert, Jr. of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announced today that J. Mark Robinson will head the Office of Energy Projects (OEP). Robert J. Cupina will serve as Deputy Director.

Chairman Hébert commented: "Mr. Robinson and Mr. Cupina are highly regarded professionals with a thorough understanding of the industries we regulate. This OEP leadership team will ensure fast decision making as we speed energy supplies to customers. Each has a proven track record in energy projects and an ability to get the job done. They will provide vision and innovative solutions at this challenging time. In addition, Mr. Robinson is an aquatic biologist with a broad grasp of environmental concerns."

Both appointments are effective immediately.

The Office of Energy Projects contains the engineering and environmental expertise to certificate new gas pipeline projects and to authorize and monitor hydroelectric projects. It focuses on project siting and development, balancing environmental and other concerns, and safeguarding the public interest.

Biographies

J. Mark Robinson had served as OEP's Director of the Division of Environmental and Engineering Review since OEP was created in 1999. He was Director of Licensing and Compliance in the old Office of Hydropower Licensing (OHL) from 1997 to 1999 and

served as Director of the Division of Project Compliance and Administration from its

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creation in 1988 to 1997. From 1983 to 1988, he was Branch Chief of the Biological Resources Branch. He joined FERC as an aquatic biologist in 1978. He played a key role in processing the rush of hydropower licensing in the 1980s, a program to cluster related projects for easier licensing, a penalty program, and an alternative licensing process that also made for faster and easier licensing of projects. He was also instrumental in speeding up the process for certificating natural gas pipelines. He has a bachelor's degree and a Master of Science degree from West Virginia University. He is married with three children and lives in Reston, Virginia.

Robert J. Cupina had served as Director of the Division of Tariffs and Rates—Central in the Office of Markets, Tariffs and Rates. For the ten years prior to being named to this position in early 2000, he was Deputy Director of the old Office of Pipeline Regulation (OPR). From 1977 to 1988, he was with the Division of Pipeline Certificates as a petroleum engineer, assistant to the Director, and Deputy Director. He began his federal career with the Federal Power Commission in 1973. He was assigned to the Producer Division as petroleum engineer in 1977. He played an important role in bringing competition to the natural gas industry. Mr. Cupina majored in petroleum and natural gas engineering at Pennsylvania State University and technology management at the University of Maryland. He has a bachelor's degree from Maryland and a master's degree in public administration from George Mason University. He is married with two grown children and lives in Reston, Virginia.

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